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EXAMINER
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GEDRICH, SARAH R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3625

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/943,576

Applicant(s)

STIBERMAN, SERGIO

Examiner

Sarah R. Gedrich

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because of the reasons cited on the PTO-948 Form "Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review." Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "means for submitting said insurance application information to one or more insurers for application processing and approval" must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings

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for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show the "SQL server" as described in the specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the

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examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 11, 13, 15, 16, 20, and 40. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "13" has been used to designate both the "firewall" and the "modem." Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin

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as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Specification***

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, requires the specification to be written in "full, clear, concise, and exact terms." The specification is replete with terms which are not clear, concise, and exact. The specification should be revised carefully in order to comply with 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Examples of some unclear, inexact or verbose terms used in the specification are: "Referring to Figs. 14-22, Referring to Figs. 23-30, and others. The large number of figures the applicant refers at one instance makes it difficult to clearly understand what each figure is illustrating, figures, such as Figure 14, and 35, do not appear to show anything described in the specification.

The applicant is advised to review the specification in its entirety and make appropriate corrections where required.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claim 17 is objected to because of the following informalities: "transferors" should be "transferees" on line 9 of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 8 objected to because of the following informalities: "leased preferences" should be "leased vehicle preferences" on line 3 of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 1, 6-11, and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Green et al. US Patent No. 6,041,310 (hereinafter referred to as "Green") in view of "The virtual automotive dealership: is it time? Is it legal?" by David J. Urban (hereinafter referred to as "Urban").**

Green teaches a method and system for automobile transactions. Green further teaches:

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1. Referring to claim 1. A computerized system for transferring a leased vehicle from a prospective leased vehicle transferor to a prospective leased vehicle transferee comprising:

- Means for receiving vehicle and lease information submitted electronically by or on behalf of prospective leased vehicle transferors and storing said information in a searchable database: The practice of the present invention includes providing an interface between the check-in system 18 and the storage device 12 so that periodically data relating to newly-acquired vehicles may be uploaded into the storage device 12 (Green: Column 6, lines 27-33). The inventory data 12 includes information about each vehicle as shown in Table 1 (Green: Column 5, lines 35-37). The Examiner notes that price is included in the inventory data.
- Means for providing said vehicle and lease information electronically to prospective leased vehicle transferees in response to electronic queries to said searchable database submitted by or on behalf of prospective leased vehicle transferees: Terminal 10 accepts customer input and displays the results of system queries (Green: Column 6, lines 37-38).
- Means for receiving vehicle selection information submitted electronically by or on behalf of prospective leased vehicle transferors: A novel feature of the system of the present invention is the contact established with the linked salesperson in response to the selection of keys 100-146. Terminal processor 10a initiates a command to communications device 15 via server 11 to contact the salesperson 16 (Green: Column 12, lines 60-64).



- Means for notifying electronically prospective leased vehicle transferors whose vehicles are selected by prospective leased vehicle transferees of said selection so that the parties can negotiate and complete a leased vehicle transfer transaction: A novel feature of the system of the present invention is the contact established with the linked salesperson in response to the selection of keys 100-146 (Green: Column 12, lines 60-62).
- Means for receiving and processing insurance application information submitted electronically by or on behalf of either prospective leased vehicle transferors or prospective leased vehicle transferees with respect to vehicles selected by said prospective leased vehicle transferees for insurance covering the prospective leased vehicle transferor's liability under the prospective leased vehicle transferor's lease agreement for said vehicle in the event of lease payment defaults by the prospective leased vehicle transferee after transfer of said vehicle and lease to said transferee: In the practice of the present invention, the salesperson would access the customer data and query results maintained in storage device 12 using an interface to a commercially available financing and insurance ("F&I") application 500. The F&I package extracts customer data (name, address, phone number), selected inventory data (stock number, price, VIN, etc.), and selected query elements (monthly payment amount) via server 11 to complete contract forms and to determine exact monthly payment amounts reflective of any down payment and the customer's credit history (Green: Column 14, lines 8-20).

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- Means for submitting said insurance application information to one or more insurers for application processing and approval: A suitable application is the Computerized Automotive Technologies system 5V. The F&I package extracts customer data (name, address, phone number), selected inventory data (stock number, price, VIN, etc.), and selected query elements (monthly payment amount) via server 11 to complete contract forms and to determine exact monthly payment amounts reflective of any down payment and the customer's credit history (Green: Column 14, lines 13-20).

Green fails to teach a means for arranging for vehicle and lease transfer and insurance document delivery, payment and vehicle delivery. Urban teaches a virtual automotive dealership. Urban further teaches:

- Means for arranging for vehicle and lease transfer and insurance document delivery, payment and vehicle delivery: Consummation of the transaction, vehicle delivery, service, and disposal of one's present vehicle would be handled by existing players in the automotive infrastructure (Urban: paragraph 9). An associate delivers the vehicle, explains its features, and facilitates the signing of legal documents (Urban: paragraph 5). Internet customers would order a vehicle to their specifications over the Internet and provide a credit card down payment (Urban: paragraph 32). The Examiner notes that Urban arranges for payment and vehicle and document delivery.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Green to include means for arranging for vehicle and lease transfer

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and insurance document delivery, payment and vehicle delivery as taught by Urban in order to lower automotive distribution costs (Urban: paragraph 28).

Green further teaches:

2. Referring to claim 6.

- Means for prospective leased vehicle transferees to submit their vehicle preferences for matching with leased vehicle data stored in said system's searchable database: The system next displays main menu 70, a preferred configuration of which is illustrated in FIG. 7. This menu 70 is the starting point for building a multilevel, primary customer query of the current dealership inventory for automobiles meeting the customer's needs and preferences. The customer may limit her query to American or foreign cars, vans, or trucks using keys 71a, 71b, 72a, 72, 73a and 73b. Alternatively, if the customer's interests dictate, the query may be limited to sports/utility vehicles using key 74 (Green: Column 8, lines 17-25).

3. Referring to claim 7.

- Means for prospective leased vehicle transferees to submit their lease term preferences for matching with leased term data stored in said system's searchable database: The next selections are made on the price range screens 300, 400 (FIGS. 11, 11A) where the customer further narrows the query by indicating how much he would like to pay for the vehicle. The system is flexible in that it provides the customer the option to enter a desired purchase price 302,

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a desired monthly purchase payment 304, or a desired monthly lease payment 308 (Green: Column 9, line 66 – Column 10, line 5).

4. Referring to claims 8 and 9.

- Means for notifying prospective leased vehicle transferees of leased vehicle data and leased term data, respectively, stored on said system's searchable database that matches said prospective leased vehicle transferees' leased preferences and/or said prospective leased vehicle transferees' lease term preferences: After a complete query 140 is formulated, terminal processor 10a searches inventory data 13 in storage device 12 for a selected inventory meeting the customers primary query 182 (See FIG. 12). If a match is found 182, the system then checks for a minimum number of items 184 returned. When both those conditions are met, the system displays the vehicle selection screen 120 of FIG. 12 (Column 10, lines 55-61).

5. Referring to claim 10.

- Means for receiving financing application information submitted electronically by or on behalf of prospective leased vehicle transferees with respect to vehicles selected by said prospective leased vehicle transferees for financing to pay for transfer of said leased vehicle: The F&I package extracts customer data (name, address, phone number), selected inventory data (stock number, price, VIN, etc.), and selected query elements (monthly payment amount) via server 11 to complete contract forms and to determine exact monthly payment amounts

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reflective of any down payment and the customer's credit history (Green: Column 14, lines 14-20).

6. Referring to claim 16.

- Means for receiving and processing prospective leased vehicle transferee credit verification information: The F&I package extracts customer data (name, address, phone number), selected inventory data (stock number, price, VIN, etc.), and selected query elements (monthly payment amount) via server 11 to complete contract forms and to determine exact monthly payment amounts reflective of any down payment and the customer's credit history (Green: Column 14, lines 14-20). The Examiner notes that the F&I package acknowledges the customer's credit history.

Green fails to teach a means for arranging for financing document and funding delivery, a means for prospective leased vehicle transferees to purchase leased vehicle feature upgrades, a means for prospective leased vehicle transferees to purchase leased vehicle warranties/maintenance plans. Urban further teaches:

7. Referring to claim 11.

- Means for arranging for financing document and funding delivery: Consummation of the transaction, vehicle delivery, service, and disposal of one's present vehicle would be handled by existing players in the automotive infrastructure (Urban: paragraph 9). An associate delivers the vehicle, explains its features, and facilitates the signing of legal documents (Urban: paragraph 5). Internet customers would order a vehicle to their specifications over the Internet

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and provide a credit card down payment (Urban: paragraph 32). The Examiner notes that Urban arranges for payment and vehicle and document delivery.

8. Referring to claim 14.

- Means for prospective leased vehicle transferees to purchase leased vehicle feature upgrades: Some manufacturers, such as Buick, give consumers the opportunity to “spec” a car, by providing lists of available options that consumers may add to a base model (Urban: paragraph 22).

9. Referring to claim 15.

- Means for prospective leased vehicle transferees to purchase leased vehicle warranties/maintenance plans: Dealer fees include extended warranty contracts, document processing fees, etc. (Urban: paragraph 46). The virtual dealership would allow a vehicle to be “delivered to the consumer within 24 hours through a nationwide independent service center network, such as Goodyear, that would deliver the car, do warranty work and be the parts/service center for post warranty needs (Urban: paragraph 34). The Examiner notes that warranty and maintenance plans are suggested by Urban to be part of the total transaction price, this suggests that the warranties can be purchased over the Internet if the virtual dealership is providing warranty work and service.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Green to include a means for arranging for financing document and funding delivery, a means for prospective leased vehicle transferees to purchase leased vehicle feature upgrades, a means for prospective leased vehicle transferees to

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purchase leased vehicle warranties/maintenance plans as taught by Urban in order to lower distribution costs (Urban: paragraph 28), allow a user to order a vehicle to their specification (Urban: paragraph 32), and lower warranty costs for the virtual dealership (Urban: paragraph 56), respectively.

10. Referring to claim 17. Claim 17 is rejected on the same rationale as set forth above in claim 1.

**Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Green in view of Urban in further view of Yahoo! Classifieds at Yahoo.com cited on 28 January 1999 (hereinafter referred to as "Yahoo! Classifieds").**

The combination of Green and Urban teach the system and method previously discussed in the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection. The combination fails to teach a means for receiving vehicle and lease information comprises a series of customized leased vehicle data entry screens made accessible to prospective leased vehicle transferors via a global computer network, whereby prospective leased vehicle transferors can create customized listings for their vehicles, a means for notifying electronically prospective leased vehicle transferors whose vehicles are selected by prospective leased vehicle transferees of said selection further comprises messaging means for prospective leased vehicle transferors and prospective leased vehicle transferees to negotiate and complete a leased vehicle transfer transaction, messaging means comprises Internet e-mail communications protocols, and messaging means comprises instant peer-to-peer communications protocols. Yahoo! Classifieds teaches classifieds on the Internet.

Yahoo! Classifieds further teaches:

11. Referring to claim 2.

- Means for receiving vehicle and lease information comprises a series of customized leased vehicle data entry screens made accessible to prospective leased vehicle transferors via a global computer network, whereby prospective leased vehicle transferors can create customized listings for their vehicles: The check-in system 18 is a computerized system for capturing information concerning newly-acquired automobiles as they are brought into the dealership. These systems are well known in the automobile business and are available from a variety of vendors. As shown in more detail in FIG. 1A, this system may include a laptop computer for recording inventory data shown in Table 1 for each automobile. The information could include a digital image of the vehicle (Green: Column 6, lines 9-16). Yahoo! Classifieds also shows a series of screens is used such as choosing a category and manufacturer and then being required to provide the information shown on the batch feed specifications (Yahoo! Classifieds: pages 9-13). The Examiner notes that Yahoo! Classifieds is provided over a global network.

12. Referring to claim 3.

- Means for notifying electronically prospective leased vehicle transferors whose vehicles are selected by prospective leased vehicle transferees of said selection further comprises messaging means for prospective leased vehicle transferors and prospective leased vehicle transferees to negotiate and complete a leased vehicle transfer transaction: Yahoo! Classifieds supplies the user with a



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Personals Mailbox (Yahoo! Classifieds: pages 18, 23 and 24). The Examiner notes that this Mailbox could also be used for Yahoo! Autos' Classified ads.

13. Referring to claims 4 and 5.

- Messaging means comprises Internet e-mail communications protocols and instant peer-to-peer communications protocols: Yahoo! Classifieds allows for a Personals Mailbox, e-mail, message boards, and "Chat" (Yahoo! Classifieds: pages 9, 18, 23, and 24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Green and Urban to include a means for receiving vehicle and lease information comprises a series of customized leased vehicle data entry screens made accessible to prospective leased vehicle transferors via a global computer network, whereby prospective leased vehicle transferors can create customized listings for their vehicles, a means for notifying electronically prospective leased vehicle transferors whose vehicles are selected by prospective leased vehicle transferees of said selection further comprises messaging means for prospective leased vehicle transferors and prospective leased vehicle transferees to negotiate and complete a leased vehicle transfer transaction, messaging means comprises Internet e-mail communications protocols, and messaging means comprises instant peer-to-peer communications protocols as taught by Yahoo! Classifieds in order to provide users with the ability to submit ads that are "Easy to Use" (Yahoo! Classifieds: page 28), to allow a user to send and receive messages anonymously (Yahoo! Classifieds: page 18), to

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allow the user to respond by email without confidentiality (Yahoo! Classifieds: page 18), and to allow users to talk instantly, respectively.

**Claims 12 and 13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Green and Urban in further view of Murphy et al. Patent Application Publication US 2002/0052778 (hereinafter referred to as "Murphy").**

The combination of Green and Urban teach the system and method previously discussed in the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection. The combination fails to teach a means for leased vehicle dealers to submit vehicle and lease information electronically that is not accessible by other prospective leased vehicle transferors. Murphy teaches a system and method for providing incentives to purchases. Murphy further teaches:

14. Referring to claim 12.

- Means for leased vehicle dealers to submit vehicle and lease information electronically that is not accessible by other prospective leased vehicle transferors: The dealer representative begins the interaction by accessing the system and logging onto the system. The system administrator presents to participating dealers 408a a dealer home page. From the dealer home page, the dealer representative can access various Modules (Murphy: paragraph 0141).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination of Green and Urban to include a means for leased vehicle dealers to submit vehicle and lease information electronically that is not accessible by other prospective leased vehicle transferors as taught by Murphy in order

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to allow for interactive incentives within a dealership to force a consumer or manufacturer to work with a certain dealership (paragraph 0032).

Green fails to teach a means for dealers to initiate communications with prospective leased vehicle transferees that have accessed dealers vehicle and lease information stored on said system's searchable database prior to notification of vehicle selection by a prospective leased vehicle transferee. Urban further teaches:

15. Referring to claim 13.

- Means for dealers to initiate communications with prospective leased vehicle transferees that have accessed dealers vehicle and lease information stored on said system's searchable database prior to notification of vehicle selection by a prospective leased vehicle transferee: The dealer receiving the sales lead, contacts the customer, offers a price, and attempts to close the sale (Urban: paragraph 26). The Examiner notes that Urban suggests sites that provide sales leads to dealers, allowing the dealers to initiate communication. This suggests that consumers have searched for a product accessible by the dealer.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Green to include a means for dealers to initiate communications with prospective leased vehicle transferees that have accessed dealers vehicle and lease information stored on said system's searchable database prior to notification of vehicle selection by a prospective leased vehicle transferee as taught by Urban in order to allow a user's interest to be forwarded to a local dealer (Urban: paragraph 26).

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- "Web Car-Shopping Puts Buyers in Driver's Seat." Edward Harris. Wall Street Journal. New York, N.Y.: 15 April 1999
- "Yahoo! Autos Provides Enhanced Road Map for Researching, Buying, and Selling Cars Online." PR Newswire. New York.: 13 October 1998
- "Auto Library matches buyers, sellers in 'deals on wheels.'" Shep Montgomery. The Mississippi Business Journal. Jackson: 21 November 1994. Vol. 16, Iss. 47

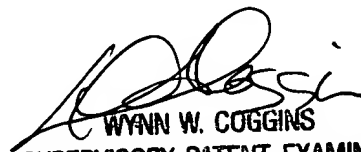
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sarah R. Gedrich whose telephone number is (703) 306-5449. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am - 5:00pm, alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wynn Coggins can be reached on (703) 308-1344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SRG



WYNN W. COGGINS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600